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accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
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(54) **THERMAL EXTRACTION METHOD FOR PRODUCING A TAXANE EXTRACT**

(57) The present invention relates to a thermal ex-
traction method, comprising:

- i) preparing a diterpenoid-containing biomass starting material comprising a species of the genus *Taxus* or *Austrotaxus*, wherein the biomass is reduced in size to an average diameter of less than about 2 cm in its smallest dimension;
- ii) introducing the reduced size biomass starting material into a thermal extraction system comprising a contained vessel, a heat source, and at least one recovery unit;
- iii) heating the reduced size biomass starting material to a temperature of from about 250°C to about 650°C; and
- iv) collecting a condensed thermal extract comprising:
 - a) paclitaxel; and

b) 13-acetyl-9-dihydrobaccatin III,
wherein

- a) the ratio of the concentration of 13-acetyl-9-dihydrobaccatin III to the concentration of paclitaxel in the condensed thermal extract is approximately 10;
- b) the ratio of the concentration of 13-acetyl-9-dihydrobaccatin III in the condensed thermal extract to the concentration of 13-acetyl-9-dihydrobaccatin III in the starting material is at least 10;
- c) the residence time of the biomass starting material in the thermal extraction system is less than about 30 seconds; and
- d) the thermal extraction method is exclusive of a solvent extraction.

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
6 X	CASS B J ET AL: "Challenges in the isolation of taxanes from <i>Taxus canadensis</i> by fast pyrolysis", JOURNAL OF ANALYTICAL AND APPLIED PYROLYSIS, ELSEVIER BV, NL, vol. 57, 1 January 2001 (2001-01-01), pages 275-285, XP003012157, ISSN: 0165-2370, DOI: 10.1016/S0165-2370(00)00148-0 * figures 1,2 * * page 276 - page 285 * * 2. Experimental * * 3. Results and discussions * * tables 1-3 *	6-13,15, 16	INV. C10B53/02 C10C5/00 C07D305/14 A61K36/13 ADD. C10B49/22
3 X	US 5 395 455 A (SCOTT DONALD S [CA] ET AL) 7 March 1995 (1995-03-07) * examples 5,6 * * tables 1,2 * * figures 1-3 *	6-13,15, 16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61K A01N C10B C10C
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.			
Claims searched completely :			
Claims searched incompletely :			
Claims not searched :			
Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 7 February 2018	Examiner Zuurdeeg, Boudewijn
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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07-02-2018

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5395455 A	07-03-1995	CA 2091373 A1 US 5395455 A	11-09-1993 07-03-1995
GB 1300966 A	29-12-1972	NONE	
WO 2007045093 A1	26-04-2007	NONE	

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82



INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number
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Claim(s) completely searchable:
6, 7, 10, 11, 15

Claim(s) searched incompletely:
8, 9, 12, 13, 16

Claim(s) not searched:
1-5, 14

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claims 1 and 6 have been drafted as separate independent method/activity claims.

Under Article 84 in combination with Rule 43(2) EPC an application may contain more than one independent claim in a particular category only if the subject-matter claimed falls within one or more of the exceptional situations set out in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of Rule 43(2) EPC. This is not the case in the present application, however, for the following reasons :

- * the situation of paragraph (a) does not apply because claims 1 and 6 are directed towards a thermal extraction method

- * the situation of paragraph (b) does not apply because method claims 1 and 6 do not represent use-type claims of the same product.

- * the situation of paragraph (c) does not apply because product claims 1 and 6 cannot be considered alternative solutions to a same problem. 'Alternative solutions' represent mutually exclusive possibilities having very little if any overlapping features or similarities. This is not the case because method claims 1-6 present considerable overlaps between themselves respectively.

The applicant is referred to the Official Journal of February 2002, page 113, for examples which are representative of the exceptions that can be allowed under Rule 43(2) EPC.

With a letter dated 05.02.2018, the applicant requested to base the search on independent claim 6 (and dependent claims 7 to 16).

It is noted that claim 14 is not dependent on claim 6.

Thus, the search report has been drawn up on the basis of independent claim 6 and claims dependent thereon (Rule 62a(1) EPC):

Claims 6 (completely) and claims 7-13, 15 and 16 (partially, in so far directly dependent on claim 6).